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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Bernd ERHARDT, Josef STIEDL and Mathias STRETZ

Appln. No.: 10/517,156

Confirmation No.: 5697

Filed: December 6, 2004

Group Art Unit: 3725

For: **METHOD FOR ADJUSTING THE DEFORMATION GEOMETRY
OF A DEFORMATION TOOL IN AN OPTIMIZING MANNER,
CORRESPONDING DEFORMATION TOOL AND APPROPRIATE TEST TOOL**

Attorney Docket No.: 3926.116

Customer Number: 000041288

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.97 and §1.98**

Mail Stop Amendment

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, Applicants hereby notify the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the following documents for the above-identified application. Copies of the documents set forth below and listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08A, a copy of an Office Action which issued in the corresponding German patent application and a copy of an International Search Report are provided herewith.

1. German Patent Application No. 41 32 607 A

Document 1

Document 1 discloses a process, an experimentation tool and a deformation tool for adjusting a specific position of each tool set of a multistage process. For this, first tool sets for multistage sheet metal deformation are mounted on a base plate and the position of the base plate is adjusted in a separate initial adjustment press under simulation conditions, the precise position of the tool is noted, and the information is used to position the tool subsequently in the multistage process. An adjustment of this type of a deformation tool is comparatively time consuming and complex.

Applicants are not aware of any English language document equivalent to Document 1, other than an English language abstract:

Tools are correctly positioned in a multistage press by fitting each set of tools in a separate one-stage trial press. The upper tool of each set of tools is mounted on a baseplate (3) which is attached to the ram of the one-stage press. The setting of the baseplate relative to the ram is adjusted and a workpiece of the required accuracy is produced by the set of tools when installed in the one-stage trial press. The precise position of the tool is then noted and the information is used to position the tool in the multistage press. The process is repeated until all the sets of tools are correctly positioned.

In the International Search Report Document 1 was cited as "A" category relevancy to claims 1 and 12.

U.S. PATENT APPLICATION
SERIAL NO.: 10/517,156
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

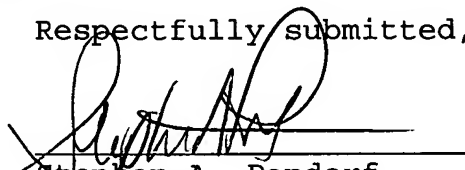
ATTY DOCK: 3926.116

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after three months from the application's filing date but before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, therefore no Certification Under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) is required.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedated or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

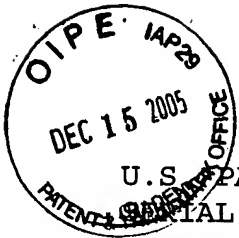
Applicant respectfully requests that the listed documents be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO-1449 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: **December 12, 2005**



U.S. PATENT APPLICATION

SERIAL NO.: 10/517,156

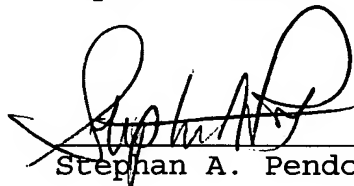
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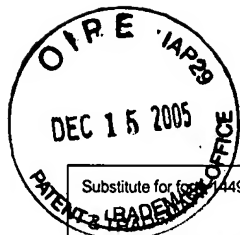
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING AND AUTHORIZATION TO CHARGE

I hereby certify that the foregoing INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT Form PTO/SB/08A, including one (1) document, for U.S. Application No. 10/517,156 filed December 6, 2004, were deposited in first class U.S. mail, postage prepaid, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on **December 12, 2005**.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required at any time during the prosecution of this application without specific authorization, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 16-0877.


Stephan A. Pendorf



Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for (see 1449/PTO)

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

Complete If Known

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| Application Number | 10/517,156 |
| Filing Date | December 6, 2004 |
| First Named Inventor | Bernd ERHARDT |
| Art Unit | 3725 |
| Examiner Name | |
| Attorney Docket No. | 3926.116 |

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Document Number Number-Kind Code ² (If Known) | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear |
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NON-PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published | T ² |
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Foreign Patent Document Country Code ³ Number ⁵ (if known) | Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear | T |
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. 1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). 2 See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. 3 Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). 4 For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. 5 Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. 6 Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached. This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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